

They are as follows: *Helicorbis* Benson, subgenus of *Planorbis*, to which are referred *Pl. nitidus* of Gray's Turton, *Pl. hemisphærule*, and *Pl. umbilicalis* Benson; this group is equivalent to *Hippeutis* Agassiz, 1837. *Trochorbis* Benson is based on *Pl. trochoides* Benson, which is a typical *Segmentina*, well figured by Hanley and Theobald in the *Conchologia Indica*, p. 18, pl. xxxix, figs. 4-6, 1876. As *Segmentina* dates from 1817, it follows that Benson's name is synonymous. Lastly *Omalodiscus* Benson is proposed ostensibly for the group called by Swainson *Spirorbis* (1840, not *Spirorbis* Daudin, *Vermes*, 1800), but the species mentioned under it belong respectively to *Tropidiscus* Stein, 1850, and *Gyraulus* Agassiz, 1837. If we regard the contents of the group as wrongfully referred to it and take the name merely as a substitution for the preoccupied *Spirorbis* (of which the type was *Pl. rotundatus* Poirét), it may be applied to a valid section of *Planorbis*, but if we regard the contents only, the name must be considered a synonym. Under *Helicorbis* the only species for which a figure is cited is *Pl. nitidus* of Gray's Turton (= *fontanus* Lightfoot) which was already the type of Agassiz's *Hippeutis*, 1837. The others also belong to *Hippeutis*, but approach more nearly in form to *Drepanotrema* Crosse and Fischer, 1880.

While referring to this paper of Benson's it may be mentioned that his genus *Laguncula*, which is described in it, and has been generally referred to the *Assimineidæ*, but I believe never figured, resembles a very young thin-shelled *Lanatia*, with a thin horny pauci-spiral operculum recalling that of *Chondropoma*. On the whole I suspect it more nearly approaches *Cremnoconchus* than *Assiminea*, and may eventually be referred to the *Litorinidæ*. It cannot properly be referred to the *Viviparidæ*, where it was placed by H. and A. Adams, and has none of the shell characters of *Assiminea*. The aperture, while slightly expanded, does not show, in specimens sent from China by Hungerford, anything which may be strictly termed a reflected peristome, and there is no thickened ledge inside the mouth or shelly deposit on the operculum.

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SAMUEL HART WRIGHT.

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We regret to announce the death of Dr. Samuel Hart Wright, father of Mr. Berlin H. Wright. Doctor Wright was born Febru

ary 18, 1825, and died at his home in Penn Yan, N. Y., October 7, 1905.

“At the age of twenty, while struggling to gain a livelihood from the soil, the subject of this sketch had the fires of educational enthusiasm lighted. Two carpenters employed on the farm carried books on astronomy and mathematics in their chests and brought them out nights for study and discussion. Participation in this evening and noon-hour work resulted in a fixed determination by the boy to possess books of this character and to master them. Books accompanied him into the field; when the horses were resting new problems were fixed in the mind and when following the horses the solutions were worked out mentally.

“When added responsibilities began with wife and family, increased effort was put forth and directed towards mathematical astronomy. In 1848 after three years of close application, the first set of astronomical tables was brought out, but no purchaser found. This was repeated for 1849 and again for 1850, when they were sold to the *New York Tribune*—the first ‘Whig Almanac.’ Thereafter the business increased. In 1876 his son, Berlin H. Wright succeeded to this business, and other branches of science claimed increased attention, especially microscopy. Meanwhile, he studied medicine and was a practitioner until 1870, when deafness came upon him.

“The study of botany was begun in 1856 and he became an authority in this branch, as the great herbarium he left testifies. During the last two decades, the study of pure mathematics claimed most of his time, though he did much in surveying. In pursuit of recreation, with his son and grandsons he became enthusiastic in geology and conchology.

“A large library of standard reference works along all these lines and in general literature was brought together. Among these he spent his last years and was happy.”

Mr. Wright contributed a number of interesting articles on the Unionidæ of the Southern States, among which may be mentioned: “Notes upon the Unionidæ of Southern Florida,” (*The Conchologist's Exchange*, vol. ii); “Unionidæ of Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and Louisiana in South Florida,” (*THE NAUTILUS*, vol. iv), and “Contribution to the Knowledge of United States Unionidæ,” (*THE NAUTILUS*, vols. x and xi). In the latter paper seven new species were described.

C. W. J.